

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 140987
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 NEA-11 TRSE-00 VO-05 ICA-11
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 CA-01 L-03 /059 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:JSEYMOUR
APPROVED BY EUR/EE:CWSCHMIDT
EUR/NE:RWOODS (SUBSTANCE)
HA:CBRODY

-----067243 032231Z /62

R 030218Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 140987

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, CSCE, SHUM, SCUL, PL, US, SW

SUBJECT: SWEDISH-POLISH RELATIONS: PROBLEM OF POLISH-BORN
SWEDISH JEWS

REF: A) STOCKHOLM 2718, B) STOCKHOLM 1850, C) WARSAW
2407 (NOTAL)

1. THE DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES THE INFORMATION FROM
EMBASSY STOCKHOLM (REF A AND B). THE PROBLEM BETWEEN
SWEDEN AND POLAND, WHICH WE FIRST DISCOVERED THROUGH A
NEWSPAPER TRANSLATION LAST FALL AND WHICH EMBASSY WARSAW
SUBSEQUENTLY VERIFIED THROUGH THE SWEDISH AMBASSADOR
(REF C) BEFORE THE FALLDIN VISIT, HAS CONFIRMED TO US THAT
OUR OWN DIFFICULTIES ARE NOT UNIQUE OR ACCIDENTAL. ABSENCE
OF EXPRESSED CONCERN FROM JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS HERE HAS
PUZZLED US, HOWEVER, AND WE ARE STILL TRYING TO ASCERTAIN
THE SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM AND EXTENT OF CONCERN. WE ALSO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 140987

WONDER IF OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES ARE EXPERIENCING SIMILAR
DIFFICULTIES. AN ASSESSMENT OF OUR CURRENT SITUATION
FOLLOWS. YOU MAY SHARE ALL OF IT WITH THE SWEDES. EMBASSY
WARSAW MAY WISH TO ADD ITS COMMENTS.

2. WE NOW HAVE 27 CASES OF VISA DENIALS IN WHICH WE HAVE
BEEN ASKED TO INTERVENE. MOST ARE POLISH-AMERICANS, AND

AT LEAST 13 INVOLVE JEWS WHO LEFT POLAND IN 1967-69. SINCE ABOUT AUGUST 1977 WE RECALL ONLY TWO INSTANCES OF VISA DENIALS WHERE OUR REPRESENTATIONS RESULTED IN REVERSALS BY THE POLES, AND EACH WAS A SPECIAL SITUATION-- A FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR AND A VOA EMPLOYEE.

3. EXCEPT FOR A FEW INSTANCES OF CONGRESSIONAL OR EXECUTIVE BRANCH INTERVENTION ALL OF THESE CASES HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO US BY THE INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED. PIECING TOGETHER THEIR EXPERIENCES AS RELATED TO US AND COMBINING THIS WITH INFORMATION GAINED IN DISCUSSION WITH POLISH EMBASSY OFFICIALS--CONSULAR AND POLITICAL, WE CAN DISTINGUISH SEVERAL CATEGORIES OF REFUSAL--DEFECTORS, SHIP-JUMPERS, THOSE WHO ADJUSTED STATUS HERE BUT WITHOUT REFERENCE TO POLISH AUTHORITY, THOSE WHO REQUESTED REFUGEE STATUS, CASES INVOLVING POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, AND JEWS WHO LEFT POLAND IN THE LATE 1960'S. THERE ARE ONLY ONE OR TWO WHO MAY FALL INTO THE POLITICAL CATEGORY, AND THIS SEEMS TO INVOLVE SOME KIND OF ACTIVITY THE POLES DEEM HOSTILE.

4. IN THE CASE OF THE JEWS WHO FLED POLAND TEN YEARS AGO, IT INVARIABLY TURNS OUT THAT, AS A CONDITION OF OBTAINING PERMISSION TO LEAVE, THEY WERE REQUIRED TO SIGN STATEMENTS RENOUNCING POLISH CITIZENSHIP, DECLARING AN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 140987

INTENTION TO GO TO ISRAEL, AND, AS SEVERAL HAVE TOLD US, CITING AS THE REASON FOR DEPARTURE A DISLIKE OF CONDITIONS IN POLAND. SOME HAVE SAID THAT, GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES AT THE TIME, THEY FELT THERE WAS NO CHOICE BUT TO SIGN THESE STATEMENTS IN ORDER TO GET PERMISSION TO LEAVE. SOME HAVE SAID THEY REALLY HAD NO INTENTION OF GOING TO ISRAEL EVEN THEN, HOWEVER.

5. THE POLISH COUNSELOR FOR CONSULAR AFFAIRS HAS TOLD US, IN EFFECT, THAT THESE JEWS ARE REGARDED AS HAVING COMMITTED AN "UNFRIENDLY ACT" IN MAKING SUCH DECLARATIONS UPON LEAVING POLAND. PRESUMABLY, POLISH VISA REGULATIONS CONTAIN A RESTRICTION AGAINST ADMITTING PERSONS WHO HAVE COMMITTED "UNFRIENDLY ACTS."

6. THE COUNSELOR ACKNOWLEDGED THERE IS A "HUMANITARIAN PROVISION" IN POLISH VISA REGULATIONS THAT PROVIDES A WAIVER OF SUCH RESTRICTIONS IN THE CASE OF A PERSON WHO WANTS TO VISIT A DYING RELATIVE OR ATTEND THE FUNERAL OF SAME. EXISTENCE OF SUCH A WAIVER MAY ACCOUNT FOR THE REPORTED SARCASM BY POLISH CONSULAR OFFICIALS HERE TO THE EFFECT THAT AN APPLICANT WILL BE ALLOWED TO VISIT HIS

PARENT ONLY AT THE LATTER'S FUNERAL. SOME PEOPLE HAVE

GOTTEN PERMISSION FOR 7-DAY VISITS IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES.

7. WE BECAME AWARE OF AN APPARENT PATTERN OF DENIALS TO JEWS ONLY LAST FALL. SEVERAL POLISH-AMERICANS HAVE TOLD US, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS NOTHING NEW. SOME APPLICANTS HAVE ALSO INDICATED AS MUCH, BUT THEY GENERALLY ARE UNAWARE OF CORRESPONDING EXPERIENCES OF THEIR CORELIGIONISTS.

8. WE BEGAN RAISING WITH THE EMBASSY AND FOREIGN MINISTRY VISA DENIALS EARLY THIS YEAR, CITING THE DISTURBINGLY HIGH PROPORTION OF DENIALS TO JEWS. WE HAVE RAISED SPECIFIC CASES SEPARATELY, AND WE HAVE RAISED THE OVERALL CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 140987

ISSUE, TOGETHER WITH THE RELATED AND LONGSTANDING ONE OF DIVIDED FAMILIES. THE POLES HAVE AGREED TO LOOK INTO SPECIFIC CASES, AND WE HAVE A FEW REPLIES--ALL CONFIRMING INITIAL DENIALS. WE INTEND TO KEEP PRESSING THE ISSUE.

9. THE SWEDISH EXPERIENCE SHOWS ONE WAY IN WHICH EVENTS COULD DEVELOP. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE APPARENT POLISH SOFTENING TOWARD ISRAEL WILL CONTINUE. IF IT DOES, WE BELIEVE POLISH AUTHORITIES MIGHT RELAX THEIR ATTITUDE ON THESE VISAS. IF NOT, WE MAY NEED TO FORCE THE ISSUE. A POSSIBLE NEXT STEP WOULD BE TO SUGGEST THAT AMERICAN JEWISH LEADERS WHO FREQUENTLY VISIT POLAND ADD THIS QUESTION TO THEIR AGENDA. THE POLES HAVE SOUGHT TO ACCOMMODATE THEM ON SOME OTHER ISSUES, AND WE BELIEVE THEY WOULD ALSO STRIVE TO DO SO ON THIS ONE. THERE ARE OBVIOUSLY DEEP AND SENSITIVE POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED, HOWEVER, AND WE DOUBT THAT THE POLISH FOREIGN MINISTRY AND OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS HAVE MUCH FLEXIBILITY ON THIS QUESTION.

10. WE ARE CONSIDERING CONSULTATION OF OTHER WESTERN GOVERNMENTS AND WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SWEDISH THOUGHTS ON THIS. CHRISTOPHER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JEWS, ENTRY VISAS, TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE140987
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JSEYMOUR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780233-0371
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780699/aaaadhad.tel
Line Count: 159
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: eb42be92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STOCKHOLM 2718, 78 STOCKHOLM 1850, 78 WARSAW 978
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2499534
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SWEDISH-POLISH RELATIONS: PROBLEM OF POLISH-BORN SWEDISH JEWS
TAGS: CVIS, SHUM, SCUL, PL, US, SW, CSCE
To: STOCKHOLM
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/eb42be92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014